

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system comprising:
a fuel cell body;
a first portion and a second portion which cooperate with each other to jointly
form a passage for hydrogen exhausted from the fuel cell body; and
a hydrogen exhaust valve disposed in the passage between the first portion and
the second portion,
wherein the first portion and the second portion are directly fixed to each other
and are both continuously supplied with heat from the fuel cell body following start up of the
fuel cell body.
2. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
the first portion is a gas-liquid separation unit supplied with heat from
inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body.
3. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
the first portion is an end plate provided in a stack configured by the fuel cell
body and supplied with heat liberated by the stack.
4. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
the second portion is a hydrogen processing unit supplied with heat from
inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body.
5. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 4, wherein the
hydrogen processing unit is a dilution unit.
6. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 4, wherein
the hydrogen processing unit is a combustion unit.

7. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
one of the first portion and the second portion includes a cover formed with an
internal space that accommodates the hydrogen exhaust valve; and
the other one of the first portion and the second portion closes the internal
space of the cover within which the hydrogen exhaust valve is disposed.
8. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
a spring member is interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve and one of
the first portion and the second portion to urge the hydrogen exhaust valve against the other
one of the first portion and the second portion.
9. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
the hydrogen exhaust valve is fixed to the first portion and the second portion.
10. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
seal mechanisms are respectively interposed between the hydrogen exhaust
valve and each of the first portion and the second portion.